

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An electronic apparatus for executing an operation using an application, comprising:

a communicating ~~means for communicating~~ unit configured to communicate with an external apparatus via a communication line; ~~[[and]]~~

a controlling ~~means for executing~~ unit configured to execute an operation using an application within the external apparatus by communicating with the external apparatus by the communicating ~~means~~ unit, the controlling unit configured to execute the operation when an operation execution request that requests execution of the operation using the application within the external apparatus is received from the external apparatus by the communicating unit;

an authenticating unit configured to carry out, using authentication information that is added to the operation execution request, an authentication process to confirm validity of the operation execution request when the communicating unit receives the operation execution request from the external apparatus, the authentication information including identification information unique to the application, and the authenticating unit confirming that the operation execution request is valid if the identification information matches identification information that is registered in advance; and

an operation execution permitting unit configured to permit execution of the operation if the authenticating unit confirms that the operation execution request is valid.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a device start notification sending means for sending unit configured to send a start notification of the electronic apparatus to the external apparatus by the communicating ~~means~~ unit; and

an application information registering means for registering unit configured to register information related to a usable application that is added to an application usability notification, when the application usability notification from the external application is received by the communicating ~~means~~ unit in response to the start notification sent by the device start notification sending ~~means~~ unit.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the device start notification sending ~~means~~ unit sends the start notification to the external apparatus when a power of the electronic apparatus is turned ON.

Claims 4-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim [[6]] 1, wherein:

the authentication information further includes ~~identification information unique to the application and~~ type information indicating a type of the application; and

the authenticating ~~means~~ unit confirms that the operation execution request is valid if the identification information matches the identification information that is registered in advance and the type information matches type information that is registered in advance.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim [[4]] 1, further comprising:

an identification information setting ~~means for setting~~ unit configured to set identification information unique to the application with respect to which an access to the electronic apparatus is permitted or rejected; and

an operation execution permitting or rejecting ~~means for permitting or rejecting~~ unit configured to permit or reject the execution of the operation requested by the operation execution request, if the identification information unique to the application and added to the operation execution request matches the identification information set by the identification information setting ~~means~~ unit.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim [[4]] 1, further comprising:

a line type judging ~~means for judging~~ unit configured to judge a type of communication line via which the operation execution request is received by the communicating ~~means~~ unit; and

an operation execution permitting or rejecting ~~means for permitting or rejecting~~ unit configured to permit or reject the execution of the operation requested by the operation execution request depending on a judgement judgment result of the line type judging ~~means~~ unit.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim [[4]] 1, further comprising:

an execution request judging ~~means for judging~~ unit configured to judge whether the operation execution request is a normal request or an abnormal request;

an abnormality counting ~~means for counting~~ unit configured to count a number of times the abnormal request is judged by the execution request judging ~~means~~ unit; and

an operation execution rejecting ~~means for rejecting~~ unit configured to reject the execution of the operation requested by the operation execution request if a counted value counted by the abnormality counting ~~means~~ unit exceeds a predetermined value.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a device usability notification sending ~~means for sending~~ unit configured to send to the external apparatus a usability notification indicating a usability of the electronic apparatus when the communicating ~~means~~ unit receives a connection request from the external apparatus,

wherein the controlling ~~means~~ unit executes the operation when an operation execution request that requests execution of the operation using the application within the external apparatus is received from the external apparatus by the communicating ~~means~~ unit in response to the usability notification sent to the external apparatus by the device usability notification sending ~~means~~ unit.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

an application information registering ~~means for registering~~ unit configured to register information related to a usable application that is added to the connection request, when the connection request from the external application is received by the communicating ~~means~~ unit.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

a second authenticating ~~means for carrying~~ unit configured to carry out an authentication process to confirm validity of the connection request when the communicating ~~means~~ unit receives the connection request from the external apparatus; and

a transmission permitting ~~means for permitting~~ unit configured to permit sending of the usability notification if the second authenticating ~~means~~ unit confirms that the connection request is valid.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the second authenticating ~~means~~ unit carries out the authentication process using second authentication information that is added to the connection request.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein:

the second authentication information ~~[[is]]~~ includes the identification information unique to the application; and

the second authenticating ~~means~~ unit confirms that the connection request is valid if the identification information matches the identification information that is registered in advance.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the communicating ~~means~~ unit carries out a communication sequence for confirming validity of a connection request according to a protocol that is predetermined between the electronic apparatus and the external apparatus when the connection request is received from the external apparatus, and further comprising:

a second authenticating means for carrying unit configured to carry out an authentication process to confirm validity of the connection request from the communication sequence carried out by the communicating means unit; and

a transmission permitting means for permitting unit configured to permit the device usability notification sending means unit to send the device usability notification if the second authenticating means unit confirms that the connection request is valid.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the second authenticating means unit confirms that the connection request is valid if the communication sequence is in accordance with the protocol.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

first a second authenticating means for carrying unit configured to carry out a first second authentication process to confirm validity of a connection request when the communicating means unit receives the connection request from the external apparatus; and

a transmission permitting means for permitting unit configured to permit the device usability notification sending means unit to send the device usability notification if the first second authenticating means unit confirms that the connection request is valid, wherein[[]]

second the authenticating means for carrying unit is configured to carry out a second the authentication process to confirm validity of the operation execution request when the communicating means unit receives the operation execution request from the external apparatus in response to the device usability notification sent by the device usability notification sending means unit; and

~~operation execution permitting means for permitting execution of the operation if the second authenticating means confirms that the operation execution request is valid.~~

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the communicating ~~means~~ unit carries out a communication sequence for confirming validity of a connection request according to a protocol that is predetermined between the electronic apparatus and the external apparatus when the connection request is received from the external apparatus, and further comprising:

~~first a second~~ authenticating ~~means for carrying unit configured to carry out a first~~ second authentication process to confirm validity of the connection request from the communication sequence carried out by the communicating ~~means~~ unit; and

a transmission permitting ~~means for permitting unit configured to permit~~ the device usability notification sending ~~means~~ unit to send the device usability notification if the ~~first~~ second authenticating ~~means~~ unit confirms that the connection request is valid, wherein[[;]]

~~second the~~ authenticating ~~means for carrying unit is configured to carry out a second~~ the authentication process to confirm validity of the operation execution request when the communicating ~~means~~ unit receives the operation execution request from the external apparatus in response to the device usability notification sent by the device usability notification sending ~~means~~ unit; and

~~operation execution permitting unit configured to permit execution of the operation if the second authenticating unit confirms that the operation execution request is valid.~~

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): An electronic apparatus system in which the electronic apparatus of claim 2 and the external apparatus are communicably coupled via a communication line, said external apparatus comprising:

an application storing ~~means~~ unit;

an other communicating ~~means for communicating~~ unit configured to communicate
with the electronic apparatus via the communication line; and

an application usability notification sending ~~means for adding~~ unit configured to add
information that is related to the usable application and is stored in the application storing
~~means~~ unit to the application usability notification before sending the application usability
notification to the electronic apparatus by the other communicating ~~means~~ unit, when the
other communicating ~~means~~ unit receives the start notification from the electronic apparatus.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): An electronic apparatus system in which the
electronic apparatus of claim [[4]] 1 and the external apparatus are communicably coupled
via a communication line, said external apparatus comprising:

an application storing ~~means~~ unit;

an other communicating ~~means for communicating~~ unit configured to communicate
with the electronic apparatus via the communication line; and

an operation execution request sending ~~means for sending~~ unit configured to send the
operation execution request that requests execution of the operation using a usable
application stored in the application storing ~~means~~ unit to the electronic apparatus by the
other communicating ~~means~~ unit.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): An electronic apparatus system in which the
electronic apparatus of claim 13 and the external apparatus are communicably coupled via a
communication line, said external apparatus comprising:

an application storing ~~means~~ unit;

an other communicating ~~means for communicating~~ unit configured to communicate with the electronic apparatus via the communication line;

a connection request sending ~~means for sending~~ unit configured to send a connection request to the electronic apparatus by the other communicating ~~means~~ unit; and

an operation execution request sending ~~means for sending~~ unit configured to send the operation execution request that requests execution of the operation using a usable application stored in the application storing ~~means~~ unit to the electronic apparatus by the other communicating ~~means~~ unit when the usability notification is received from the electronic apparatus in response to the connection request sent by the connection request sending ~~means~~ unit.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The electronic apparatus system as claimed in claim 24, wherein the connection request sending ~~means~~ unit sends the connection request to the electronic apparatus by the other communicating ~~means~~ unit when starting the application.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The electronic apparatus system as claimed in claim 24, wherein said external apparatus further comprises an operation ~~means~~ unit, and the connection request sending ~~means~~ unit sends the connection request to the electronic apparatus by the other communicating ~~means~~ unit in response to an operation by the operation ~~means~~ unit.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): An electronic apparatus system in which the electronic apparatus of claim 14 and the external apparatus are communicably coupled via a communication line, said external apparatus comprising:

an application storing ~~means~~ unit;

an other communicating ~~means for communicating~~ unit configured to communicate with the electronic apparatus via the communication line;

a connection request sending ~~means for sending~~ unit configured to send the connection request to the electronic apparatus by the other communicating ~~means~~ unit; and

an operation execution request sending ~~means for sending~~ unit configured to send the operation execution request that requests execution of the operation using a usable application stored in the application storing ~~means~~ unit to the electronic apparatus by the other communicating ~~means~~ unit when the usability notification is received from the electronic apparatus in response to the connection request sent by the connection request sending ~~means~~ unit.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): An electronic apparatus system in which the electronic apparatus of claim 13 and the external apparatus are communicatably coupled via a communication line, said external apparatus comprising:

an operation ~~means~~ unit;

an application storing ~~means~~ unit;

an other communicating ~~means for communicating~~ unit configured to communicate with the electronic apparatus via the communication line;

a connection request sending ~~means for sending~~ unit configured to send a connection request to the electronic apparatus by the other communicating ~~means~~ unit;

a function inquiring ~~means for inquiring~~ unit configured to inquire an existence of a function specified by the operation ~~means~~ unit to the electronic apparatus by the other communicating ~~means~~ unit, when the usability notification is received from usable electronic apparatuses in response to the connection request sent by the connection request sending ~~means~~ unit;

a device selecting ~~means for selecting~~ unit configured to select an electronic apparatus capable of realizing the specified function from the usable electronic apparatuses, when an inquiry result is received in response to the inquiring made by the function inquiring ~~means~~ unit; and

an operation execution request sending ~~means for sending~~ unit configured to send the operation execution request that requests execution of the operation using a usable application stored in the application storing ~~means~~ unit, by the other communicating ~~means~~ unit, to the electronic apparatus selected by the device selecting ~~means~~ unit.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A control method for an electronic apparatus which executes an operation using an application, comprising:

communicating with an external apparatus via a communication line; [[and]]

executing an operation using an application within the external apparatus when an operation execution request that requests execution of the operation using the application within the external apparatus is received from the external apparatus;

carrying out, using authentication information that is added to the operation execution request, an authentication process to confirm validity of the operation execution request when the operation execution request is received from the external apparatus, the authentication information including identification information unique to the application, and the authentication process confirming that the operation execution request is valid if the identification information matches identification information that is registered in advance;
and

permitting execution of the operation if the authentication process confirms that the operation execution request is valid.

Claim 30 (Original): The control method for the electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 29, further comprising:

 sending a start notification of the electronic apparatus to the external apparatus; and
 registering information related to a usable application that is added to an application usability notification, when the application usability notification from the external application is received in response to the start notification.

Claim 31 (Original): The control method for the electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein the start notification is sent to the external apparatus when a power of the electronic apparatus is turned ON.

Claims 32 and 33 (Canceled).

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): The control method for the electronic apparatus as claimed in claim [[32]] 29, further comprising:

 setting identification information unique to the application with respect to which an access to the electronic apparatus is permitted or rejected; and

 permitting or rejecting the execution of the operation requested by the operation execution request, if the identification information unique to the application and added to the operation execution request matches the set identification information.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): The control method for the electronic apparatus as claimed in claim [[32]] 29, further comprising:

 judging a type of communication line via which the operation execution request is received; and

permitting or rejecting the execution of the operation requested by the operation execution request depending on a judgement result of judging the type of communication line.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): The control method for the electronic apparatus as claimed in claim [[32]] 29, further comprising:

judging whether the operation execution request is a normal request or an abnormal request;

counting a number of times the abnormal request is judged; and

rejecting the execution of the operation requested by the operation execution request if a counted value of the abnormal request exceeds a predetermined value.

Claim 37 (Original): The control method for the electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 29, further comprising:

sending to the external apparatus a usability notification indicating a usability of the electronic apparatus when a connection request is received from the external apparatus,

wherein the operation is executed when an operation execution request that requests execution of the operation using the application within the external apparatus is received from the external apparatus in response to the usability notification sent to the external apparatus.

Claim 38 (Original): The control method for the electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 37, further comprising:

registering information related to a usable application that is added to the connection request when the connection request is received from the external application.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): The control method for the electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 37, further comprising:

carrying out ~~[[an]]~~ a second authentication process to confirm validity of the connection request when the connection request is received from the external apparatus; and
permitting sending of the usability notification if the second authenticating process confirms that the connection request is valid.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): The control method for the electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 37, further comprising:

carrying out a communication sequence for confirming validity of a connection request according to a protocol that is predetermined between the electronic apparatus and the external apparatus when the connection request is received from the external apparatus;
carrying out ~~[[an]]~~ a second authentication process to confirm validity of the connection request from the communication sequence; and
permitting sending of the device usability notification if the second authenticating process confirms that the connection request is valid.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): The control method for the electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 37, further comprising:

carrying out a ~~first~~ second authentication process to confirm validity of a connection request when the connection request is received from the external apparatus; and
permitting sending of the device usability notification if the ~~first~~ second authenticating process confirms that the connection request is valid, wherein~~[[;]]~~

~~the carrying out a second of the~~ authentication process to confirm validity of the operation execution request when the operation execution request is received from the external apparatus is carried out in response to the device usability notification; ~~and~~

~~permitting execution of the operation if the second authenticating process confirms that the operation execution request is valid.~~

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): The control method for the electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 37, further comprising:

carrying out a communication sequence for confirming validity of a connection request according to a protocol that is predetermined between the electronic apparatus and the external apparatus when the connection request is received from the external apparatus;

carrying out a ~~first~~ second authentication process to confirm validity of the connection request from the communication sequence; and

permitting sending of the device usability notification if the ~~first~~ second authenticating process confirms that the connection request is valid, wherein[[;]]

~~the carrying out a second of the~~ authentication process to confirm validity of the operation execution request when the operation execution request is received from the external apparatus is carried out in response to the device usability notification; ~~and~~

~~permitting execution of the operation if the second authenticating process confirms that the operation execution request is valid.~~

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium ~~which stores a program for causing~~ including computer executable instructions, wherein the instructions, when executed by a computer of an electronic apparatus, cause the computer to

~~perform a method comprising to execute an operation using an application, said program comprising procedures for causing the computer to realize:~~

a communicating function for communicating with an external apparatus via a communication line; [[and]]

a controlling function for executing an operation using an application within the external apparatus by communicating with the external apparatus by the communicating function, the controlling function executing the operation when an operation execution request that requests execution of the operation using the application within the external apparatus is received from the external apparatus by the communicating function;

an authenticating function for carrying out, using authentication information that is added to the operation execution request, an authentication process to confirm validity of the operation execution request when the communicating function receives the operation execution request from the external apparatus, the authentication information including identification information unique to the application, and the authenticating function confirming that the operation execution request is valid if the identification information matches identification information that is registered in advance; and

an operation execution permitting function for permitting execution of the operation if the authenticating function confirms that the operation execution request is valid.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 43, ~~wherein the program further comprises procedures for causing the computer to realize~~ further comprising:

a device start notification sending function for sending a start notification of the electronic apparatus to the external apparatus by the communicating function; and

an application information registering function for registering information related to a usable application that is added to an application usability notification, when the application usability notification from the external application is received by the communicating function in response to the start notification sent by the device start notification sending function.

Claim 45 (Original): The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 44, wherein the device start notification sending function sends the start notification to the external apparatus when a power of the electronic apparatus is turned ON.

Claims 46-50 (Canceled).

Claim 51 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim [[48]] 43, wherein:

the authentication information further includes ~~identification information unique to the application~~ and type information indicating a type of the application; and

the authenticating function confirms that the operation execution request is valid if the identification information matches identification information that is registered in advance and the type information matches type information that is registered in advance.

Claim 52 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim [[46]] 43, ~~wherein the program further comprises procedures for causing the computer to realize~~ further comprising:

an identification information setting function for setting identification information unique to the application with respect to which an access to the electronic apparatus is permitted or rejected; and

an operation execution permitting or rejecting function for permitting or rejecting the execution of the operation requested by the operation execution request, if the identification information unique to the application and added to the operation execution request matches the identification information set by the identification information setting function.

Claim 53 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim [[46]] 43, ~~wherein the program further comprises procedures for causing the computer to realize~~ further comprising:

a line type judging function for judging a type of communication line via which the operation execution request is received by the communicating function; and

an operation execution permitting or rejecting function for permitting or rejecting the execution of the operation requested by the operation execution request depending on a judgement result of the line type judging function.

Claim 54 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim [[46]] 43, ~~wherein the program further comprises procedures for causing the computer to realize~~ further comprising:

an execution request judging function for judging whether the operation execution request is a normal request or an abnormal request;

an abnormality counting function for counting a number of times the abnormal request is judged by the execution request judging function; and

an operation execution rejecting function for rejecting the execution of the operation requested by the operation execution request if a counted value counted by the abnormality counting function exceeds a predetermined value.

Claim 55 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 43, ~~wherein the program further comprises procedures for causing the computer to realize~~ further comprising:

a device usability notification sending function for sending to the external apparatus a usability notification indicating a usability of the electronic apparatus when the communicating function receives a connection request from the external apparatus,

wherein the controlling function executes the operation when an operation execution request that requests execution of the operation using the application within the external apparatus is received from the external apparatus by the communicating function in response to the usability notification sent to the external apparatus by the device usability notification sending function.

Claim 56 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 55, ~~wherein the program further comprises procedures for causing the computer to realize~~ further comprising:

an application information registering function for registering information related to a usable application that is added to the connection request, when the connection request from the external application is received by the communicating function.

Claim 57 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 55, ~~wherein the program further comprises procedures for causing the computer to realize~~ further comprising:

[[an]] a second authenticating function for carrying out an authentication process to confirm validity of the connection request when the communicating function receives the connection request from the external apparatus; and

a transmission permitting function for permitting sending of the usability notification if the second authenticating function confirms that the connection request is valid.

Claim 58 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 57, wherein the second authenticating function carries out the authentication process using second authentication information that is added to the connection request.

Claim 59 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 58, wherein:

the second authentication information ~~[[is]]~~ includes the identification information unique to the application; and

the second authenticating function confirms that the connection request is valid if the identification information matches the identification information that is registered in advance.

Claim 60 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 55, wherein the communicating function carries out a communication sequence for confirming validity of a connection request according to a protocol that is predetermined between the electronic apparatus and the external apparatus when the connection request is received from the external apparatus, ~~and the program further comprises procedures for causing the computer to realize~~ the computer-readable storage medium further comprising:

~~[[an]]~~ a second authenticating function for carrying out an authentication process to confirm validity of the connection request from the communication sequence carried out by the communicating function; and

a transmission permitting function for permitting the device usability notification sending function to send the device usability notification if the second authenticating function confirms that the connection request is valid.

Claim 61 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 60, wherein the second authenticating function confirms that the connection request is valid if the communication sequence is in accordance with the protocol.

Claim 62 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 55, ~~wherein the program further comprises procedures for causing the computer to realize~~ further comprising:

a ~~first~~ second authenticating function for carrying out a ~~first~~ second authentication process to confirm validity of a connection request when the communicating function receives the connection request from the external apparatus; and

a transmission permitting function for permitting the device usability notification sending function to send the device usability notification if the ~~first~~ second authenticating function confirms that the connection request is valid, wherein[[;]]

~~a-second~~ the authenticating function for carrying out a ~~a-second~~ the authentication process to confirm validity of the operation execution request when the communicating function receives the operation execution request from the external apparatus is carried out in response to the device usability notification sent by the device usability notification sending function; and

~~an operation execution permitting function for permitting execution of the operation if the second authenticating function confirms that the operation execution request is valid.~~

Claim 63 (Currently Amended): The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 55, wherein the communicating function carries out a communication sequence for confirming validity of a connection request according to a protocol that is predetermined between the electronic apparatus and the external apparatus when the connection request is received from the external apparatus, ~~and the program further comprises procedures for causing the computer to realize~~ the computer-readable storage medium further comprising:

a ~~first~~ second authenticating function for carrying out a ~~first~~ second authentication process to confirm validity of the connection request from the communication sequence carried out by the communicating function; and

a transmission permitting function for permitting the device usability notification sending function to send the device usability notification if the ~~first~~ second authenticating function confirms that the connection request is valid, wherein[[;]]

~~a-second~~ the authenticating function for carrying out a ~~second~~ the authentication process to confirm validity of the operation execution request when the communicating function receives the operation execution request from the external apparatus is carried out in response to the device usability notification sent by the device usability notification sending function; ~~and~~

~~an operation execution permitting function for permitting execution of the operation if the second authenticating function confirms that the operation execution request is valid.~~